



Canoists at sunrise, Florida Bay

Ranger-led hike near Pa-hay-o-kee

Cormorant

Anhinga

Walking on the Pinelands Trail

Wood stork (left) and ibis

Tent camping at Flamingo

Walking on the Pinelands Trail

Wood stork (left) and ibis

Tent camping at Flamingo

Walking on the Pinelands Trail

Wood stork (left) and ibis

Make your first stop in the park at one of its four visitor centers. The staff can help you plan the best use of your time and answer questions about park facilities and activities. Informative publications about south Florida national parks are sold at the visitor centers. An entrance fee is charged at the main park entrance and at Shark Valley on the Tamiami Trail.

The best way to visit the park is to take time to walk the boardwalks and trails along the main park road and to join in ranger-led events. Naturalists give talks and lead hikes, canoe trips, tram tours, and campfire programs. Ask at a visitor center for schedules; events may change daily. At **Everglades City** the Gulf Coast Visitor Center is the park's western saltwater gateway. Narrated boat tours explore the pristine Ten Thousand Islands and coastal mangrove. At **Shark Valley** the wildlife-viewing tram tour through sawgrass prairie includes a stop at a 65-foot tower for spectacular views. Birds and alligator viewing rank among the park's best here.

Activities and Facilities

Walking Trails Experience the diversity of Everglades' environments by walking short, wheelchair accessible trails from parking areas throughout the park. At **Royal Palm** the **Anhinga Trail**, a 1/2-mile loop trail, offers one of the best opportunities to view wildlife, including alligators and birds, up close. The **Gumbo Limbo Trail**, a 1/2-mile loop, winds through a jungle-like tropical hardwood hammock reshaped by Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Along the main park road the **Pinelands Trail**, a 1/2-mile loop, explores a subtropical pine forest maintained by fire. The pinelands are the most diverse land habitat in south Florida. At **Pa-hay-o-kee** **Overlook** a 1/4-mile boardwalk leads to an observation tower offering a panoramic view of the "River of Grass." A 1/2-mile boardwalk at **Mahogany Hammock** crosses the glades and loops through a subtropical tree island with massive mahogany trees. The **West Lake Trail**, a 1/2-mile boardwalk, loops deep into a forest of salt-tolerant, prop-rooted mangrove trees. At **Flamingo's Eco Pond** a short walk leads to a wildlife-viewing platform. At **Shark Valley** the

Bobcat Boardwalk, a 1/4-mile walk from the visitor center, loops through sawgrass prairie and a bayhead. At **Otter Cave** a one-mile round trip from the visitor center enters a subtropical hardwood hammock.

Check at the park visitor centers for more information about accessibility, longer hiking trails, biking, boating, fishing, canoeing, and the Wilderness Waterway.

Camping Long Pine Key and Flamingo campgrounds offer drinking water, picnic tables, grills, restrooms, dump stations, and tent and trailer sites. Coldwater showers only are available at Flamingo; fees are charged in winter. Recreational vehicles are permitted, but there are no electrical, water, or sewage hookups. **Wilderness camping permits** are required for all backcountry sites and are issued no more than 24 hours in advance; fees are charged seasonally.

Lodging The only lodging in the park is at Flamingo; some facilities may be closed in summer. Additional lodging is available outside the park.

For More Information

Park information: Everglades National Park, 4001 State Road 9336, Homestead, FL 33034-6733; 305-242-7700; www.nps.gov/ever. Visit the National Park Service website at www.nps.gov.

For a publications catalog contact the nonprofit Florida National Parks and Monuments Association at the park address, call 305-247-1216, or order on the Internet: www.nps.gov/ever/fnpma.

Flamingo Lodge motel and cabins, marina and store, boat tours, and rentals, contact: Flamingo Lodge, Marina and Outpost Resort, Flamingo, FL 33030; 800-600-3813 or 239-695-3101.

Shark Valley Tram Tours information and reservations call: 305-221-8455.

Everglades City/Gulf Coast boat tour and rental information contact: Everglades National Park, Boat Tour Concession, P.O. Box 120, Everglades City, FL 34139; 239-695-3311.

Regulations and Safety

Please help us protect the Everglades by practicing good outdoor manners. Put litter in trash receptacles; backcountry users must carry out all their litter. Observe safety and courtesy rules and enjoy your visit in a way that lets others enjoy theirs. Report fires, accidents, violations, or unusual incidents to a park ranger. **Plants and Animals** After years of protection many animals, such as alligators, lose their natural fear of people. You can view them up close, but this does not mean they are tame. They are wild. Do not disturb or feed wildlife. Even friendly looking animals such as raccoons can be dangerous. For your safety, watch for poisonous snakes: diamondback and pygmy rattlesnakes, water moccasins, and coral snakes. Remember: do not damage, remove, or disturb any plants. Plants and animals are protected by law. Watch for poisonous plants: poison ivy, poisonwood, and manchineel. **Hiking Off Trails** Off-trail hiking or wading is permitted park-wide. Be careful of your footing; mucky soil, sharp-edged

pinnacle rock, and holes can make walking tricky. Show someone your schedule and planned route before you leave. **Driving** Maximum driving speed is 55 miles per hour; reduced speeds are posted. Pull completely off roadways onto the wide shoulder to view wildlife. Drive slowly and alertly to avoid hitting animals crossing roads. **Fire, Pets, and Hunting** Be careful with fires and do not smoke on trails. Use self-contained cooking utensils on backcountry campsites. Pets must be physically restrained and are not allowed on trails or in amphitheatres. Hunting and the use or possession of firearms is prohibited. **Airboats, Swamp Buggies, and All-Terrain Vehicles** Use of these special vehicles is prohibited in most areas of the park. Check with a ranger. **Personal Watercraft** The operation of personal watercraft, known by such terms as wave runner, jet ski, sea-doo, or wet bikes, is prohibited in all park waters. **Cultural Resources** All cultural and historic artifacts in the park are protected by law.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Everglades National Park
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Mapping Everglades Ecosystems

color key

Marine and Estuarine (seagrass, hardbottom, corals) Coastal Marsh Mangrove Cypress Coastal Prairie Freshwater Slough Pineland Freshwater Marsh Prairie Hardwood Hammock

